

[8th August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The argumentation of non-aeronautical revenue is an ongoing process in the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to increase its overall revenues. After call of tender, AAI has granted licence to the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) for operation of duty free shops at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calicut, Goa, Hyderabad and Varanasi. Cyber Cafe facility has been introduced at certain airports. Tenders have been invited for STD/Pay Phone System at airports. On the basis of global tender, AAI has offered licence to Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation for operation of Jewellery Shops at Mumbai, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram airports.

(c) No, Sir.

**Duty free shops at International Airports**

1709. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have had under consideration the question of setting up "duty free" shops at the five International Airports, other than the existing ITDC ones, since 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay, despite repeatedly inviting tenders;

(c) whether an inquiry has been instituted into the matter; and

(d) the estimated loss suffered with lapse of time?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) have had under consideration the proposal for setting up additional "duty free" shops at five international airports since 1995.

(b) The delay has been largely due to procedural issues and legal problems in finalizing the tenders.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The losses, if any, can be quantified only on completion of the tendering process.